CLAIMS

1. A round baler comprising:

a frame;

sidewalls attached to the frame;

a drum roller operatively rotatably attached to the frame;

a pick-up mechanism operatively attached to the frame for picking up a crop from the ground and delivering it to a baling chamber disposed between the sidewalls, and above the drum roller;

a plurality of belt rollers rotatably disposed between the sidewalls;

one of the belt rollers being disposed behind the drum roller, said one belt roller being the belt roller closest to the drum roller, said one belt roller having a radius;

a plurality of belts disposed at least partially between the sidewalls and each of the belts being trained over the belt rollers;

a roll of protective material desired to be disposed around the bale after it has been formed, the roll being operatively rotatably attached to the frame, the protective material on the roll being wider than the distance between the sidewalls;

a pair of tapered wedges, one of the tapered wedges being operatively attached respectively to the sidewalls above each respective end of the drum roller for compressing the lower edges of a bale being formed to form a void for receiving edges of the protective material;

wherein the distance between the drum roller and said one belt roller is less than the radius of said one belt roller, thereby forming a inlet for a leading edge of the protective material capable of reliably feeding the protective material to a place in the baling chamber where it can be wrapped around the bale; and

a protective material guide members operatively attached to the frame for guiding the protective material from the roll to the inlet.

2. The baler of claim 1 wherein there are no structures of the baler between the drum roller and said one belt roller except for sections of said belts and the protective material disposed in the inlet.

3. A round baler for producing cylindrical bales of a certain length defined by the distance between the inside surfaces of two basically flat panels with a netwrap inlet area configured to accept netwrap material that is wider than the length comprising;

a) a front side defined by a drum roller with a length approximately equal to the length of the cylindrical bale configured for direct contact with the bale;

b) a rear side defined by a belt roller with a length approximately equal to the length of the cylindrical bale configured for indirect contact with the bale;

c) first and second sides, spaced apart a distance equal the length of the cylindrical baler, defined by the flat panels and arcuate wedge members operatively attached to the flat panels, said arcuate wedge members being concentric to the drum roller; and

d) wherein the netwrap material contacts the formed bale in a void created by the wedges and in front of the belt roller.

4. A baler with a generally cylindrical bale forming chamber with ends defined by panels, a right side panel and a left side panel, and belts that are routed over rollers extending between the panels for supporting a forming bale such that the lower roller defines a bottom of the bale forming chamber and further including a netwrap mechanism to feed netwrap material to an inlet area located near the bottom, the netwrap mechanism including a feed pan disposed under the belts said feed pan comprising: flexible net guides in a spaced relation to the lower roller that are supported underneath the the flexible net guides by the closest cross-member to the lower roller, which closest lower cross member is spaced no closer than two (2) inches from the lower roller.

5. The baler of claim 4 wherein the closest cross-member is spaced no closer than ten (10) inches from the lower roller.

6. A baler with a generally cylindrical bale forming chamber with ends defined by panels, a right side panel and a left side panel, and belts that are routed over rollers extending between the panels for supporting a forming bale such that the lower roller defines a bottom of the bale forming chamber and further including a netwrap mechanism to feed netwrap material to an inlet area located near the bottom, the netwrap mechanism including a feed pan comprising;

e) flexible net guides that are narrower than the bale forming belts; and

f) supporting cross members;

g) wherein there are no cross members in close vicinity to the lower roller.

7. A baler with a generally cylindrical bale forming chamber with ends defined by panels, a right side panel and a left side panel, and belts that are routed over rollers extending between the panels for supporting a forming bale such that the lower roller defines a bottom of the bale forming chamber and further including a netwrap mechanism to feed netwrap material to an inlet area located near the bottom, the netwrap mechanism including a feed pan comprising: flexible net guides in a spaced relation to the lower roller that are supported by a cross-member spaced a minimum horizontal distance from the lower roller equal to the diameter of the lower roller.

8. An improvement to a baler with a generally cylindrical bale forming chamber with ends defined by panels, a right side panel and a left side panel, baler forming belts that are routed over rollers extending between the panels for supporting a forming bale and a pickup for directing crop material into contact with the bale forming belts where it is directed rearward away from the pickup and around the periphery of the forming bale until it eventually returns to the vicinity of the pickup, further including a netwrap assembly for feeding netwrap material into contact with the periphery of a formed bale, the improvement comprising a guide positioned generally above the pickup for directing crop material previously inserted into the bale formation chamber and the netwrap material away from the pickup.

9. The improvement of claim 8 wherein the guide comprises a generally horizontal rigid plate.

10. The improvement of claim 9 wherein the guide comprises a plurality of narrow plates.

11. The improvement of claim 8 wherein the guide comprises a generally vertical flexible plate.

12. A round baler having a frame and flat bale forming belts for producing cylindrical bales, and a netwrap mechanism for feeding netwrap material from a supply roll comprising:

a) a net knife fixed with respect to the frame;

b) a roll of netwrap material disposed on a spindle operatively rotatably attached to the frame;

c) a brake for selectively applying a braking force to inhibit rotation of the roll of netwrap material;

b) a net pan operatively pivotally attached to the frame and moveable among a first pan position wherein the netwrap material is routed away from the knife and into contact with the bale forming belts, a second pan position wherein the netwrap material is directed away from the knife, and a third pan position where the netwrap material can contact the knife; and

c) a driver, including a cross-member, an activator and net spreader roller, that can be moved among three places including a first place wherein the activator rotates the net pan into the first pan position to release a net brake to thereby release tension in the netwrap material; a second place wherein the activator rotates the net pan to its second position and applies the net brake; and a third place where the activator rotates the net pan into its third position, and the cross-member traps the netwrap material against the net knife.

13. A round baler for producing cylindrical bales of a certain length defined by the distance between the inside surfaces of two basically flat panels with a netwrap inlet area configured to accept netwrap material that is wider than the length comprising;

a) a front side defined by a drum roller with a length approximately equal to the length of the cylindrical bale configured for direct contact with the bale;

b) a rear side defined by a belt roller with a length approximately equal to the length of the cylindrical bale configured for indirect contact with the bale;

c) first and second ends, spaced apart a distance equal the length of the cylindrical baler, defined by the flat panels and arcuate wedge members mounted to the flat panels and that are concentric to the drum roller; and

d) wherein the wedge members extend from the front side to the rear side defining a top of the inlet area at the first and second ends.